

**REMARKS****A. Claim amendments**

Claims 1-16 were originally in the application. Claim 2 was cancelled and claims 1, and 3-16 were amended to correct for form and grammar. Support for the amendment of claim 1 can be found in cancelled claim 2. Claims 1, and 3-16 are now pending in this application. No new matter has been introduced into the application as a result of the above amendment.

**B. Restriction requirement**

Claims 1-16 were subject to a restriction requirement and were divided into Groups I (claims 1-15) and II (16). The Applicants provisionally elect Group I claims, with traverse.

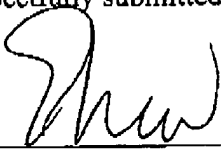
The Examiner imposed the restriction on the ground that the claims lack a single general inventive concept under a PCT Rule 13.2. Specifically, the Examiner alleged that the linking technical feature (a method for purifying high molecular weight compounds) is not special and does not constitute an advance in view of Castilho et al. (2002, J. of Membrane Science, Vol. 207, pp. 253-264) ("Castilho"). The Examiner alleged that Castilho disclosed a method of purifying high-molecular compounds using affinity membranes for purification of immunoglobulin wherein the membranes carry ligands and iminodiacetic acid complexed with Zn(II). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Castilho only disclosed immunoglobulins. It is known that IgM, the heaviest known immunoglobulin, has a molecular weight of only 900,000 Daltons whereas amended claim 1 is directed to a method involving high-molecular weight compounds having a molecular weight of greater than 1,000,000 Daltons. Thus, for at least this reason, the subject matter defined in amended claim 1 is both novel and inventive in view of Castilho. Withdrawal of the restriction between Groups I and II claims and examination of all of the claims is in order and is respectfully requested.

Prompt consideration and entry of this amendment prior to examination is respectfully requested. If there are any questions or comments regarding this Amendment or application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney as indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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